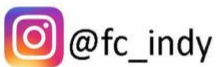




FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*No matter who you are, or
where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*



FirstCongregationalUCCIndy



FCINDY DOT ORG

www.fcindy.org
317.257.5397

7171 N. Pennsylvania St.
Indianapolis, IN 46240

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Welcome to your Spiritual Home!

We celebrate being a Just Peace making, Green for care of Creation, and WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged) for mental health church, with an Open and Affirming covenant supporting the LGBTQAAL+ community.

Whether you choose to join us online or in-person, we believe we are called together by Jesus to be a transforming presence for God in the world. **We are a place to belong, a place to heal and a place to love.** At First Congregational we recognize God as a loving, creating, all-encompassing Spirit who is not limited by usual human boundaries. Therefore, we practice the use of inclusive, expansive, and non-gendered language when speaking of and to God.

We welcome all who worship with us today and include **all ages** in our hybrid worship service. We invite guests and members to fill out a Welcome/Prayer card found in the pew holder, and put it in the offering plate. Children are invited to play quietly in the “pryground” at the front of the church, or use a “Quiet Bag” found in the Narthex.

***Disclaimer:** Today’s worship service is being live-streamed. While the focus will be on the worship leaders, anything you say or do may be on film. If you have any questions or need to ensure you are not on camera please speak with our minister.

Pastoral Care: You may reach out to Pastor Sarah for Pastoral Care. She may be reached at (386) 478-9012 or pastorsarah@fcindy.org.

In-Person Office Hours: Cassidy (church admin) is in office Thursdays from 9am-12. Contact her if you have a need at cassidy@fcindy.org. Pastor Sarah can meet by appointment.

Out of concern for community health, we request that you remain up to date with your vaccinations. Mask as needed. Please stay home if you feel unwell.

Masks can be found in the narthex.

We celebrate our worship leaders today:

Rev. Elizabeth Price (she/her), Preacher
Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director
Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader
Mayflower Singers
Jacob Smith, String Bass
Mike Kessler, Percussion
Jackson Procise (he/him), Peace Moment
Ben James (he/him), Media Technician
Linda Lupton, Presenter
Gini Coomer, Liturgist

This weekend, we are grateful for the leadership of Rev. Elizabeth Price, and we celebrate Pastor Sarah's work beyond our doors with the wider church in Highland, Indiana.

February 25, 2023 Whole Communities/Half Marginalized 11:00 AM

*Please speak the **bold**-printed words in unison.*

Asterisk () indicates those who choose to may stand in body/spirit.*

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

Imago Dei

Warner

INTROIT

I Was Glad

Mayflower Singers

Entering Into the Sacred

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING DIALOGUE

Alice Rutherford & Scott Semester

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come to you today, O God, seeking to fill our hearts with your love.

All: We come to this place to remember you love us just as we are.

Leader: We celebrate our 30th anniversary of our Open and Affirming covenant and recommit ourselves to being people of extravagant welcome and a community of wholeness.

All: We come to this place to celebrate God's love for the oppressed.

Leader: Let us come into this time of worship of the Holy One and become wholly God's.

*SONG OF INVOCATION #85 Waiting for the Touch of God *Sing! Prayer
and Praise*

INTROIT TO PRAYER

Mayflower Singers

FAITHFUL REFLECTION

Rev. Elizabeth Price

Sometimes we forget our extravagant welcome. Too often people are made to feel excluded from your love. Help us, Holy God, to share your love with the whole world. Amen.

RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

LANGUAGES OF LOVE (*How to say "I love you"*)

Linda Lupton

*SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Silent Reflection

*DOXOLOGY *Song of Thanks*

**We come here now and bring these gifts.
To you, O God, our praise we lift.
Let these our gifts go back to you,
To share with all this whole world through.**

WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM

*SONG OF SENDING # 205

Dance into Joy

Sing! Prayer and Praise

*BENEDICTION

Blessing

Beloved, remember that you are holy and belong wholly to God. Go out into the world to share the wholeness of God's love with everyone you meet. You never know when someone might be feeling like half a person because of injustice and discrimination. Go in peace, knowing that together we can build a more just world for all. Amen

BLESSING SONG

Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE

Dance into Joy

Carol Ann Camp

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship and Fun!

World Day of Prayer – Friday, March 1: The World Day of Prayer is an annual event – the first Friday of March all people are invited to share in the same service, each year developed by Christian women in one of 170 countries and regions who participate. This year, the service was written by the Christian women of Palestine – with the theme “I beg you...bear with one another in love” (Ephesians 4:1-3). It focuses on the stories of 3 different Palestinian women, of different generations. Please consider joining people around the world by attending one of the services in Indianapolis on Friday, Mar 1 – see accompanying graphic. The services in Indianapolis are being led by the Church Women United of Indianapolis. For more information see the World Day of Prayer website: <https://wdp-usa.org/>

Updated Address Directories: Printed updated directories are now available in the Narthex. Please pick one up, as there have been a lot of updates this past year. If you would like an electronic version, contact Wendy Baldwin, wbaldwinindy@gmail.com.

Clearing Out “Stuff”, and Finding New Homes for It: Our building has many different storage areas that have accumulated a lot of “stuff” over the years. We are actively working on clearing these out, and are uncovering a lot of items that the church no longer needs. If you would like any of these items, please help yourself and make a donation for them either online, by check, or by cash, with a notation of “Stuff”. If you would like to help with the clearing out process, please contact Wendy Baldwin.

First Congregational's Faith in Indiana Team invites you to a Research Action Meeting with Lauren Rodriguez, City of Indianapolis, Deputy Mayor of Public Health and Safety on Thursday, February 29 7:00 PM Northminster Presbyterian Church, 1660 Kessler Blvd. East Drive, Indianapolis 46220.

Youth Group: Join the FC Indy Youth Group, meeting Fridays from 6:30-8:30PM. We will have pizza and games and be a safe space for middle school and high school students.

Cards to Our Church Family – Please sign the cards on our “card stand”, for those celebrating birthdays, or in need of prayers.

Food Donations to Northside Pantry – Help those with hunger insecurity by bringing donations of canned or boxed food, and place in the baskets in the Narthex.

Sunday Mornings at 10:00 AM – Several options are available on Sundays before worship. Join our Adult Ed group for thoughtful study and discussion (upstairs at church). Or go to choir practice to rehearse for that morning’s singing; all skill levels welcome!

Thank You for Your Financial Gifts! Our current Covenant Outreach focus is related to our Just Peace Covenant that includes support for the following organizations: Exodus Refugee Immigration, the Peace Learning Center, and Family Promise.



Gifts of single dollars, or those designated to Covenant Outreach, are divided equally to these groups, unless otherwise specified. Also, your pledge or undesignated gifts are greatly appreciated to support the mission and ministries funded by First Congregational’s operating budget. You can place gifts in the offering plate, mail in a check to the church, or give online at www.fcindy.org .

Mental Health Support:

The 988 Lifeline: 988 is now active across the United States. (call or text) **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI.ORG):** information and referral services: 1-800-950-NAMI (6264) **The Trevor Project hotline** offers support for LGBTQIA+ youth and families struggling with mental health challenges at 1-866-4-U-TREVOR (488-7386) and www.theTrevorProject.org

THIS WEEK AT FC INDY:

Tuesday, February 27	10:00 AM	Library Team Meeting
Tuesday, February 27	3:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Wednesday, February 28	10:00 AM	WISE Mental Health Team
Thursday, February 29	11:45 AM	Women's Lunch
Friday, March 1	6:30 PM	Youth Group
Sunday, March 2	10:00 AM	Adult Education
Sunday, March 2	11:00 AM	Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)

Today's Scripture

Genesis 9:3-17

You may now eat anything that moves and lives, just as it had been with the green plants: I now give them all to you. "However, you are not to eat flesh with its lifeblood still in it. At the same time, I will demand an accounting from your own lives, your own blood: from every animal I will demand it, and from every member of the human race in regard to one another, I will demand an accounting of human life. "If anyone sheds the blood of another, by others will their blood be shed; for in the image of God has the human race been created. "Now go, bear fruit and be many—abound on the earth and increase your numbers!"

Mark 8:31-38

Then Jesus began to teach them that the Promised One had to suffer much, be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and religious scholars, be put to death, and rise again three days later. Jesus said these things quite openly. Peter then took him aside and began to take issue with him. At this, Jesus turned around and, eyeing the disciples, reprimanded Peter: "Get out of my sight, you Satan! You are judging by human standards rather than by God's!" Jesus summoned the crowd and the disciples and said, "If you wish to come after me, you must deny your very self, take up your cross and follow in my footsteps. If you would save your life, you'll lose it, but if you lose your life for my sake, you'll save it. What would you gain if you were to win the whole world but lose your self in the process? What can you offer in exchange for your soul? Whoever in this faithless and corrupt generation is ashamed of me and my words will find, in turn, that the Promised One and the holy angels will be ashamed of that person, when all stand before our God in glory."

Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible. Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.



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